
Nucha Isarowong

Assistant Professor

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **March 2016, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**
School of Social Service Administration
Raising Toddlers: A naturalistic, longitudinal examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- A.M. **June 2002, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**
School of Social Service Administration
Concentration: School Social Work
- B.S. **May 1996, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL**
College of Communication
Major: Advertising - Art Direction

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Infant Mental Health and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
Early Intervention & Special Education (IDEA Parts B, C, & D)
Infant & Early Childhood Home Visitation
Father Engagement
Child & Family Policy
Clinical Practice with Children & Families
Social Work Education & Professional Development
Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

CURRENT RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

- 2018 – present *Principal Investigator*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Stress and Cortisol: Exploring the Effects of Early Intervention Professionals Participation in Reflective Practice Groups

This study pilots examines the relationship between the self-report experience of stress of Early Intervention Professionals who participate in monthly Reflective Practice Groups and their salivary cortisol levels. In partnership with a faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago Chemistry Department, we collected additional samples of tears utilizing existing collection methodology to validate an innovative cortisol analysis technique.

- 2017 – present *Research Associate*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Prevalence of Trauma Exposure in Early Intervention: A randomized sampling of children receiving services in three Illinois regions

The larger study represents an effort to infuse a trauma-informed perspectives in procedures and practices provided through the state administered IDEA Part C Early Intervention (EI) program. In collaboration with three EI regional offices, this study examines the prevalence of exposure to trauma by infants and toddlers receiving EI services. EI service coordinators, with support from regional administrators completed surveys for randomly chosen children in their caseload.

- 2017 – present *Principle Investigator*
 Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
The Intersection of Early Intervention and the Social Work Profession: A Policy Case Study
- This study explores and analyzes the roles of social workers in IDEA Part C Early Intervention services, generally, and in the state of Illinois, specifically. Of particular interest are the ways in which political frames and policy structures supports or obstructs access both to families caring for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities who are seeking social work services and social workers who seek to provide services to and on behalf of those families.
- 2016 – present *Principle Investigator*
 Fussy Baby Network (FBN), Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
The FAN and Fathers
- This study examines the ways in which home visiting and family support professionals make use of and are influenced by the expansion training workshop titled, *The FAN and Fathers*. Facilitated Attuned Interactions (FAN) is a process-oriented engagement model and approach to working with parents and caregivers. Based on existing research and clinical wisdom, we designed a workshop curriculum 1) to make a case for home visiting and family support professionals to engage with fathers and 2) to assist professionals in exploring and reflecting on their current efforts to engage with fathers, and 3) to explore ways in which professionals can utilized the FAN core processes to engage with fathers. The workshops present empirically-based knowledge and facilitate activities that engage participants in building self-awareness, flexible critical thinking skills, and reflective capacity.
- 2015 – present *Co-Principle Investigator*
 Dolores G. Norton, PhD, School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago
Theory to Practice: Updating the Ecological Systems Framework for Social Work Practice
- This project links theoretical and conceptual models to social work practice. We propose that assisting social work students to build their foundation of practice on the principles of an infused ecological systems framework informs their ability to competently observe, assess, and engage with and on behalf of a diverse population of children and families.
- 2013 – present *Principal Investigator*
 School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Raising Toddlers: A longitudinal, naturalistic examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- This study contributes to a relatively small body of knowledge regarding the normal development of urban, low-income African American children living in high-risk environments. This mixed qualitative and quantitative, longitudinal study uses secondary naturalistic video observation data of children and families in their homes to systematically explore, analyze, and document parental socialization efforts to encourage the development of children’s social knowledge at ages 12 months, 24 months, and 36 months.

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 – 2018 Faculty Research and Scholarship Fund, Erikson Institute
Policy Case Study: The Intersection of Early Intervention and the Social Work Profession
- 2016 Uchicago App Challenge, University of Chicago
ReferMe seeks to establish a widely available social service and resource directory that is accessible in the field and can be maintained and updated utilizing the collective efforts of those who use and benefit from it the most, the human services professionals and social service organizations.
<https://appchallenge2016.uchicago.edu/>
- 2013 – 2015 Irving B. Harris Professional Development Network Doctoral Fellowship
Raising Toddlers: A longitudinal, naturalistic examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- 2013 Dolores Norton Student Research Award
Illinois Association of Infant Mental Health
Raising Toddlers: A longitudinal, naturalistic examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- 2012 – 2013 Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship
Zero to Three Leadership Development Initiative
Parental Perceptions of Early Intervention Services
- 2012 – 2013 Irving B. Harris Professional Development Network Dissertation Grant
Raising Toddlers: A longitudinal, naturalistic examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- 2012 Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA), University of Chicago
Research Initiative Grant (RIG)
Raising Toddlers: A longitudinal, naturalistic examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments
- 2012 Human Rights Program, University of Chicago
Family Resource Center on Disabilities, Chicago, IL
Expanding the reach of Parent Training and Information Center (IDEA Part D) to professionals working with infants and toddlers identified with developmental disabilities and their families.

PEER-REVIEWED & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Isarowong, N.** (2016). *Raising toddlers: A naturalistic, longitudinal examination of African American parental socialization messages and practices with toddlers in high-risk environments* (Doctoral dissertation, The University of Chicago). Ann Arbor, MI: ProQuest LLC.
- Edwards, R.C., Thullen, M.J., **Isarowong, N.**, Shiu, C.S., Henson, L.G., & Hans, S.L. (2012). Supportive relationships and the trajectory of depressive symptoms among young, African American mothers. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 26(4), pp. 585-94.
- Casas, P. & **Isarowong, N.** (2015). Saint Anthony Hospital: Infusing Developmental and Family Support Services in Community-Based Medical Practice. *Zero to Three Journal*, 35(6), pp. 29-37.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- May 2018 **Isarowong, N.** *The FAN and Fathers: Examining the Flow of Therapeutic Engagement with Fathers of Fussy Babies.* Brief Oral Presentation accepted at the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) World Congress, Rome, Italy.
- May 2018 Kasovac, N. & **Isarowong, N.** *Fathers and the FAN Model: (At)Tuning in to Fathers of Infants and Young Children.* Poster accepted at the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) World Congress, Rome, Italy.
- May 2018 Walsh, T., Paris, R., **Isarowong, N.**, Ribaud, J., & Gilkerson, L. *Advancing the Principles and Practices of Infant Mental Health Across Multiple Disciplines and Domains.* Paper accepted for presentation at the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) World Congress, Rome Italy.
- April 2017 **Isarowong, N.** *Raising Toddlers: A naturalistic examination of everyday socialization messages in urban, low-income African American families.* Poster accepted at the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- January 2017 **Isarowong, N.**, Gilkerson, L., & McMillin, S.E. *Roundtable on Reflective Practice to Ensure Healthy Development of Children: Preparing Social Work Students for Effective Practice with Children and Families.* Presentation accepted at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- April 2013 **Isarowong, N.** & Vincson, J. *Family Well-Being, Temporal Development, and Children's Pre-School Readiness: Learning from African American families living in high-risk environments.* Paper accepted for presentation at The Illinois Council on Family Relations (ILCFR) Conference, Champaign, IL.
- June 2012 **Isarowong, N.** *African American Parental Socialization Practices with Toddlers: A naturalistic, longitudinal examination of parenting in high-risk environments.* Presentation at the Minority Graduate Students Association (MGSA), "Eye on the Mosaic" Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, IL.
- February 2012 **Isarowong, N.** *Child-directed Caregiver Language of African-American Families in High-Risk Environments.* Poster accepted for presentation at The Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) Themed Meeting, The Positive Development of Minority Children, Tampa, FL.
- March 2011 Edwards, R.C., **Isarowong, N.**, Shiu, C., Thullen, M.J., Henson, L.G., & Hans, S.L. *Social Support and Trajectory of Depression in Young Mothers.* Poster accepted for presentation at The Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

RECURRING PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

The FAN and Fathers Workshop

Isarowong, N. & Torrence-Graham, T.

September 2017 MIECHV Programs, Rockford School District, Rockford, IL

August 2017 MIECHV Programs, Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL

July 2017 MIECHV Programs, Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL

June 2017 MIECHV Programs, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL

June 2017 Teen Parent Connection, Glen Ellyn, IL

Diversity-Informed Tenets for Working with Infants, Children, and Families Workshop

- May 2018 Thomas, K. & **Isarowong, N.** Professional Development and Workforce Innovations Department, Zero to Three, Washington, DC.
- February 2018 Noroña, C.R., & **Isarowong, N.** Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health Capstone Certificate Program, Madison, WI.
- October 2017 Thomas, K.. & **Isarowong, N.** Harris Foundation Board on Early Childhood Grants, Chicago, IL.
- October 2017 **Isarowong, N.** & Noroña, C.R. Fussy Baby Network National Meeting, Albuquerque, AZ.
- April 2017 Nalo, A. & **Isarowong, N.** Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Retreat, Bloomington, IL.
- April 2017 **Isarowong, N.** Yale-Riggs Infant and Family Mental Health Training Program, Stockbridge, MA.
- February 2017 Thomas, K., Noroña, C.R., & **Isarowong, N.** Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health Capstone Certificate Program, Madison, WI.

Welcome to the Journey – Partners Workshop

Isarowong, N.

- November 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- October 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- September 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- August 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- July 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- May 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- April 2017 Center for Care and Discovery, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL

INVITED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- September 2017 **Isarowong, N.** *Why Fathers Matter? Measuring Impact: Exploring what the research tells us, what it doesn't, and why we need to know – Practitioner Panel.* Panelist at Power of Fathers Conference, Chicago Center for Arts and Technology, Chicago, IL
- March 2017 **Isarowong, N.** *Service Systems for Children with Developmental Differences.* Presentation at Developmental Difference Resource Fair, Neighborhood Parents Network, Chicago, IL.
- May 2014 **Isarowong, N.** *Parental perceptions of Early Interventions services and transition: Learning from Spanish-speaking families in Chicago.* Research presentation and discussion at Early Childhood Education Acuerdo, Chicago, IL
- September 2013 **Isarowong, N.** *You're telling me! Supporting and partnering with families in Early Intervention.* Professional development workshop presented at Integrated Provider Workshop, Child and Family Connections #10, Chicago, IL
- April 2011 **Isarowong, N.** *Multi-disciplinary Utilization of Ecological Mapping in Early Intervention Evaluation and Practice.* Professional development workshop presented at Integrated Provider Workshop, Child and Family Connections #10, Chicago, IL
- January 2011 **Isarowong, N.** *Preschool and Kindergarten Social-Emotional Learning Standards.* Professional development workshop presented at Early Childhood Education Committee, Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, Chicago, IL
- January 2007 **Isarowong, N.** *Separation and Divorce Workshop: Helping Parents and Children Cope, Adjust, and Transition.* Parent education and training workshop presented at Windy City Kids Child Development Center, Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, IL

TEACHING INTERESTS

Human Behavior in Social Environment (Family and Culture)
Public School Systems and Service Populations
Exceptional Children (Families and Children with Diverse Abilities)
Infant Mental Health and Family Support
Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families: Practice and policy
Relationship-Based, Family-Centered Perspectives and Strategies for Working with Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Children and Their Families

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2018 *Faculty*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Course: *Family and Culture (C432)*
Course: *Foundation Supervision Seminar (K442)*

Autumn 2017 *Faculty*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Course: *Working with Families and Children with Diverse Abilities (K438)*
Course: *Foundation Supervision Seminar (K441)*

Spring 2017 *Faculty*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Course: *Advanced Practice with Children, Adolescents, and Adults (K454)*
Course: *Family and Culture (C432)*

Autumn 2016 *Faculty*
Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL
Course: *Working with Families and Children with Diverse Abilities (K438)*
Course: *Foundations of Infant Mental Health (I370)*

Autumn 2014 *Adjunct Lecturer*
Autumn 2013 School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Course: *Human Development in Social Environment (SSAD327)*

Winter 2011 *Teaching Assistant*
Autumn 2010 School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Instructor: Yoonsun Choi, Ph.D.
Course: *Statistical Research Methods 1 & 2 (SSAD540 & SSAD541)*

2014-2011 *Guest Lecturer*
Spring 2010 *Teaching Assistant*
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Instructor: Victor Bernstein, Ph.D. & Sydney L. Hans, Ph.D.
Course: *Relationship-Based Strategies for Working with Infants, Toddlers, and Parents (SSAD616)*

Autumn 2009 *Teaching Assistant*
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Instructor: Michael E. Woolley, Ph.D.
Course: *Public School Systems and Service Populations (SSAD416)*

ACADEMIC SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

2016 – Present *Workgroup Member*
Facilitator-in-Training Committee Co-Chair
Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children, and Families
Erikson Institute & Irving Harris Foundation, Chicago, IL

The diversity-informed tenets are a set of guiding principles that raise awareness about inequities and injustices embedded in our society. The Tenets empower individual practitioners, agencies and systems of care to identify and address the social justice issues intricately intertwined with all infant mental health work. The Tenets are rooted in belief that self-awareness and intentional action are the cornerstones of principles of equity and inclusion. [<https://imhdivtenets.org/>]

2017 – Present *Member, Father Involvement Collaborative Learning Community*
Children’s Home + Aid; Metropolitan Family Services; Family Focus; Fathers, Families, & Healthy Communities; and Power of Fathers

This learning community initially formed to support the Power of Fathers Project. The community continues to meet with the collective interest in advancing the effort to bring attention to the need to recognize, include, and engage fathers in their children’s lives and in family services with and for their children.

2015 – 2016 *Finalist, ReferMe*
University of Chicago App Challenge, University of Chicago

Conceptualize, propose, and design mobile application that employs existing technology to innovate and enhance the utility of an existing state-wide database of social service providers for field-based case management tasks. [<https://youtu.be/S3Y1QeMeQLI>]

2013 – 2014 *Workgroup Member*
Race, Ethnicity, and Social Work Education Working Group
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

Participate in workgroup with doctoral students and faculty to discuss how race and ethnicity are taught across the curriculum. Facilitate focus groups with first and second year master’s student.

2011 *Graduate Mentor*
Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP)
University of Chicago
Mentee: Laura Carrillo, McNair Scholar, DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Supervise and collaborate with mentee on conceptual framework and operationalization of independent and outcome variables for summer project using ICDP data.

2009 – 2010 *Co-facilitator*
Professional Learning Community
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

Co-facilitate field discussion groups with second year master’s students in the school social work concentration. Support and reflect with students regarding their current field experiences, areas of strengths and needs, topics of concern as they prepare to begin their professional careers as master’s level social workers, and ideas to address those future concerns.

2008 – 2010 *Co-chair*
Disability over the Lifespan Workshop Series
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago

The Disabilities over the Lifespan Workshop series was formed as a student organization in an effort to fill the educational gap in knowledge regarding people with disabilities. The workshop presented on issues affecting people with disabilities at all stages of life from prenatal to death in every arena including, but not limited to, education, therapeutic services, policy, culture, and daily living. A selected sample of workshops:

- *Child Disability in an Era of Economic Scarcity: Lessons for Supporting Vulnerable Children*
- *Transitions in Health Decision-Making: Listening to Young Adults with Disabilities*
- *New Stages in the Grieving Process for Parents: Appreciation and Hope*
- *Neighborhoods to Neurons: Lessons in Child Disability in an Era of Change & Scarcity*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 – present *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*
Fussy Baby Network, Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL

The Fussy Baby Network (FBN) at the Erikson Institute provides family support home visitation services to families of infants between birth and 12 months when they are struggling to care for a baby who is fussy, crying excessively, or has difficulty with sleep or feeding. FBN offers a warmline support as well as online, video-conferencing support groups for mothers, fathers, and couples, including a web-based 6-week support group for moms experiencing post-partum depression in partnership with Beyond the Baby Blues.

2011 – present *Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Medical Diagnostic Team*
Center for Children and Family, Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL

The medical diagnostic team at the Erikson Institute's Center for Children and Family conducts comprehensive, interdisciplinary medical diagnostic evaluations under the leadership of developmental and behavioral pediatricians from the University of Chicago Medicine. Evaluations are part of the Illinois Early Intervention Service System.

2006 – present *Social-Emotional Specialist & Evaluator*
Child and Family Connections #8, #9, #10, #11
Bureau of Early Intervention, Illinois Department of Human Services

The Illinois Early Intervention (EI) program's mission is to assure that families who have infants and toddlers, birth to three, with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays receive resources and supports that assist them in maximizing their children's development, while respecting the diversity of families and communities.

2006 – present *Child and Family Therapist, Private Practice*
Managed-Care Enrolled Therapist, Chicago, IL

Provide services to families with children 3 years and older in natural settings. Provide therapeutic services and social-emotional support to children and their families seeking assistance with difficult child behaviors or extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, divorce and separation, grief and bereavement, and social isolation and peer aggression. Consult with families in their efforts to advocate with children's schools for appropriate attention to the concerns expressed by the children, parents, and schools.

2002 – 2006 *School Social Worker*
Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Region 4 & 5
Chicago Board of Education, Chicago, IL

Chicago Public School in Region 4 and 5 are located between Cermak Avenue on the northern boundary and 83rd Street on the southern boundary. These regions consist of some of the city's highest need neighborhoods including Englewood, Woodlawn, Auburn Gresham and Grand Crossing where the Robert Taylor Homes were located.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017 – Present *Advisory Board Member*, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Addison, IL

2011 – 2015 *Co-facilitator*, Early Intervention Professional Community Group
Child and Family Connections #10, Chicago, IL

2010 – 2012 *Committee Member*, Early Childhood Education Committee
Woodlawn Children Promise Community
Apostolic Church of God, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2014 **Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED**, expires 04/28/2018

2008 **Credentialed Early Intervention, Evaluation/Assessment, IL**
#NI85470706P, expires 05/31/2019

2007 **Credentialed Early Intervention Specialist, IL**
#NI85470706P, expires 05/31/2019

2006 **Licensed Clinical Social Worker, IL**
#149.011991, expires 11/30/2019

2006 **Professional Liability Insurance** – expires 09/01/2019

2002 **Type 73 Certification for School Social Work**
#246527, expires 06/30/2019

MEMBERSHIP & AFFILIATION

2014 Council for Exceptional Children, Division for Early Childhood

2012 National Council on Family Relations, Illinois Chapter

2012 Academy of Zero to Three Fellows

2016 Zero to Three

2012 World Association of Infant Mental Health

2011 Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health

2011 Society for Social Work and Research

2010 Society for Research in Child Development

2002 National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter